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Stafford Says Briefing Left Him Quite Disturbed

WASHINGTON — An unusual secret administration briefing Wednesday on the United States' position in Cuba, Berlin, Vietnam and Korea left Vermont Rep. Robert T. Stafford admittedly "quite disturbed."

Stafford, who was in Vermont to cast his vote in the primary Tuesday morning, flew back to Washington to be on hand Wednesday for the secret combined briefing of the House Armed Services and Foreign Affairs Committees. Stafford is a member of the Armed Services Committee.

There was speculation by some at the Capitol Wednesday that the administration briefings to Congress are in preparation for information President Kennedy will reveal to the nation Thursday evening at his press conference.

Explaining that all committee members were sworn to secrecy

on the briefing, Stafford revealed only that State Department Secretary Rusk was chief spokesman, assisted by Defense Department and CIA staff members.

"I felt quite disturbed at the news I learned today," said Stafford in assessing his own reaction.

"I felt thankful that over the past two years (his period in Congress and as a member of the Armed Services Committee) the country has taken the steps it has to insure an adequate national defense.

"While at home," Stafford continued, "I found that one of the things that Vermonters were most concerned about is the current build-up in Cuba."

He said the Armed Services Committee has scheduled executive sessions Thursday and Friday when he anticipates the committee will be briefed on the requests of the President to call up reserves, if necessary.